

NEW LONDON COAL EXCHANGE, LOWER THAMES STREET.

MR. J. BUNNING, ARCHT.



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THE former Coal Exchange being inadequate and inconvenient for the purposes required, an enlarged site was purchased by the corporation of London for the erection of a new Exchange, having a frontage next Lower Thames-street of 113 feet, and a similar frontage next St. Mary-at-Hill; and on this the building represented by the annexed engraving is now being erected from the designs of Mr. Bunning, the architect to the corporation. It is arranged so as to give an increased width to these thoroughfares, and presents two distinct elevations, connected by a circular tower, 100 feet high, within the re-entering angle formed by the two fronts. The front of the whole is to be faced with Portland stone.

The building will contain on the ground-floor, in addition to suites of offices, an area of upwards of 4,000 superficial feet for the meeting of the merchants, including a circle 60 feet in diameter, the whole height of the building, covered with a glazed dome of cast-iron ribs, supported on each story by ornamental cast-iron stanchions. This, from its magnitude and novelty of design, will form a prominent feature of the building. The height from the floor to the top of the dome will be about 70 feet.

There are likewise provided suites of spacious well-lighted offices and committee-rooms, occupying four stories of the building, for the accommodation of the merchants, factors, and others; the accesses to them being by pro-

jecting galleries of fire-proof construction, within the circle under the dome.

The cost of the building will be about 36,000*l*. Mr. William Tregn is the contractor for the erection of the building, excepting for the founders' work, which is to be executed by Messrs. Dewar, of Old-street.

TRANSCERENCE OF PAINTINGS ON WALLS TO CANVAS.

THE preservation of the paintings on plaster, with which certain of the ceilings in the old rooms of the British Museum were decorated, being deemed impracticable or not desirable, they were given up to destruction, and were for the most part knocked to pieces. Dowling, a modeller, being anxious to save some of them, applied himself to transfer some of the groups to canvas, chiefly from the library, and has succeeded admirably. The following was the course he pursued. With a paste composed of equal quantities of boiled oil, flour paste, and glue, he fastened a cloth to the whole surface of the painting proposed to be removed, and formed a frame-work in front, to support the painted plaster when loosened from the wall behind. He then cut away the timberwork (in some cases brickwork) to which the plaster was attached, and, with scrapers, gradually removed the plaster from the back of the picture till the colour began to show, leaving a surface of about the thickness of a penny piece. With a similar paste to that first men-

tioned, the painting was fastened to canvas strained on a frame, and the picture being freed from the cloth on the face of it by the application of warm water, and afterwards cleaned with soap and water, the operation was complete.

The patience and ingenuity of Dowling are so praiseworthy, that we consider it but an act of justice to mention the circumstance, and to say that the various portions he has thus preserved, some of them large groups, are at his lodgings, No. 12, Drury-lane.

RESTORATION OF THE "THEATRE-FRANCAIS," PARIS.

THE decoration of the Théâtre-Français, which has been going on for some time past under the direction of M. Fontaine, the architect, is now finished, and is highly praised by our Paris contemporary, the *Moniteur des Architectes*. It includes some structural alterations and arrangements to improve the house for hearing. The front of the boxes has been brought forward considerably; the royal box removed from the centre, where it was greatly in the way, to the left side of the proscenium; and the domical ceiling has been lowered. The general decoration is white and gold, and the hangings of the boxes cherry colour. Open partitions separate the boxes in lieu of the former close divisions, which had a bad effect on the sound. Simplicity with great dignity is said to characterise the whole.